

Here are some tips on how to start PET recycling at school.

Introduction

Selling recyclable waste can become a source of revenue for your school. You could fund books, computers, sports tours and other facilities and activities in this way.

Any school can participate in PET recycling if you follow the three basic steps to get started

1.1.1 Step 1: Set up a waste management committee

- Ensure that all interested parties (school management, educators, learners and parents) understand why PET plastic recycling is important and are all committed to make it work
- Ensure that the **principal of your school** fully supports the project. This is vital.
- The following representatives are very important:
 - a representative from the school's management is involved
 - at least three representatives from among the educators
 - at least one a representative from the school governing body
 - one or more earner representatives. This is very important, because learners will assist in generating awareness and support amongst their peers and parents
 - a representative from the school cleaning staff
- Appoint a **waste co-ordinator**, who will take responsibility for the project. That person will also have to
 - Drive the implementation of the project
 - Ensure that all involved are trained
 - Hold regular meetings with the waste management committee
 - Keep the school management informed about what the team is doing

1.1.2 Step 2: Conduct a waste audit

- Find out from local recycling companies what **minimum quantity** of PET plastic you need to collect before a recycler will collect it from your school.
- Determine how much PET your school generates per week or month.
- Determine how much other types of recyclable waste (e.g. paper, cans, and glass) you will have to collect in order to produce enough for a collection company to be prepared to collect from your school.
- Determine where your school produces the most waste (for instance classrooms, sport fields, playground, offices, tuck-shop).
- Determine whether you want to, or will need to, collect via people dropping off recyclables at your school. Decide how you will do this.



Plastic bottles are not trash

- You could get some useful additional advice from others who run existing collection points or centres. Visit www.petco.co.za or www.mywaste.co.za to find the closest collection points

1.1.3 Step 3: Set up the school recycling collection centre

What do you need?

- **Space** – sufficient, enclosed, undercover and secure space to store the PET until there is the minimum amount for collection
- **A safe and protected area where...**
 - collected material is enclosed and does not blow around the school
 - collected material is protected from the elements
 - there is security to prevent vandalism or illegal dumping
- **Access** – your site should be easily accessible to both the collector and people like parents and others community who may be given permission to drop-off recyclables.
- **Equipment**
 - Bulk bags to store place your recyclables for collection. You can ask your collector to supply you with some if it as part of their service
 - A scale, especially if you are planning to arrange competitions between various classes, year groups and other groups to stimulate participation
 - Some office equipment and someone who will be responsible for simple record-keeping
 - Protective clothing – ensure that all volunteers and cleaning staff have the necessary protective clothing, e.g. gloves

1.1.3.1 Also consider:

- **Health and Safety** – consider the possible odour, effect of insects, bees and high traffic, and keep the area clean and organised so that you can avoid fires and other risks
- **Security** – so that there is no illegal dumping of trash on your school grounds.

Support

PETCO offers further advice, as well as educational material such as posters, DVDs and PET collection bags for events that detail the PET recycling process.

You can also apply to hire banners for special events such as sports days, fun days or fêtes.

Making Contact

Call toll free:	0860 147 738 (0860 1 is PET)
Email:	info@petco.co.za
Facebook:	PETCO, the South African PET Plastic Recycling Company
Twitter & Instagram:	1isPET
Website:	www.petco.co.za



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